(b) the details of supply position and the steps taken by Government to meet the present requirement of LPG in these districts; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The average monthly.sale of LPG in the State of Assam during the year 2002-03 was approximately 11.5 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT).

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have maintained supplies of LPG to their registered consumers in Assam. However, shortage of LPG cylinders for enrolment of new consumers in some parts of the State has been esxperienced on account of non-supply of cylinders by manufacturers due to increase in price of steel. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has floated a new tender to overcome the problem.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Splitting of Air India

139. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to split or halve Air India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Deployment of ground staff by private airlines

140. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATON be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to stop private airlines from deploying their own ground staff for customer service citing security considerations;